

TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION

Presiding Officer J.P. Steelman called the August 15, 2024, meeting of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection to order at 9:00 a.m. at the North Lamar Boulevard Building, 4800 N. Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas.

Member Attendance:

Chris Cantu	David Coatney	Kelly Vandygriff	Michael Glynn
Paul Hamilton	Bob Morgan	Tim Smith	Amanda Friedeck
Rusty Wilson	Michael Johnson	J. P. Steelman	Sue DeVillez

*There were no absences.

Staff Attendance:

Mike Wisko	Frank King	Amanda Khan	Holden Wenger	Joyce Guinn
Rick Wallace	Grace Wilson	Bobby Stebbins	Piyush Manglani	Ashley Barnett

1. Call to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance – The invocation was delivered by Chief Nathan Hine of the Snyder Fire Department, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Presiding Officer, J.P. Steelman.

2. Roll call for a quorum and excuse of commissioner absences, if any - The roll was called, and a quorum was present. No commissioners were absent.

3. Approve Commission meeting minutes of the May 16, 2024, meeting – A motion was made by Rusty Wilson and seconded by David Coatney to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2024, meeting. The motion carried.

4. Report from the Budget and Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Subcommittee – No report was given.

5. Reports from fire service interest groups and agencies on matters relating to their specific organizational purposes, functions, activities, and objectives, including reports from TEEEX, the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters, the State Firefighters and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, the Texas Fire Marshal's Association, the Texas Association of Fire Educators, the Texas A&M Forest Service, the National Fire Protection Association, Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts, the Center for Public Safety Excellence, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation. The initial report from the Firefighter Cancer Support Network will be added to the list – Reports were given by TEEEX, The Texas Fire Chiefs Association, the Texas A&M Forest Service, the State Firefighters and Fire Marshals' Association, the National Fire Service Association, Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts, and the State Fire Marshal's Office.

6. Report from the Commission representative to the Homeland Security Council – No report was given.

7. Subjects for future commission meeting agendas – Michael Johnson requested a discussion on capturing firefighter suicide data.

8. Discussion on future meeting dates – the November 21, 2024, meeting at 10:00 a.m. was confirmed. To date, no other meetings have been scheduled.

9. Discussion and possible action on the vacant seat for the Assistant Presiding Officer for the Commission – A motion was made by Bob Morgan and seconded by David Coatney to nominate Michael Glynn as the Assistant Presiding Officer for the Commission. No other nominations were made. The motion carried.

10. Matters referred to the Commission from the Curriculum and Testing Committee:

A. Report from the Curriculum and Testing Committee – Agency Chief Mike Wisko gave updates on Hazmat and the Emergency Management Certification on behalf of the Curriculum and Testing (C&T) Committee. Permission to form an ad hoc committee for the Emergency Management Certification that will be co-chaired by Louie Havens of the C&T Committee and Ken Bell of TDEM was requested from the Commission by the committee. A motion was made by Tim Smith and seconded by Chris Cantu to create the ad hoc committee and an online application process.

B. Discussion and possible action concerning updates to the Hazmat curriculum – Mike Wisko shared comments sent by Lynwood Dunseith, Program Director of Fire Protection for San Jacinto College. While considering the public comments received and the recommendations of the staff, a motion was made by Paul Hamilton and seconded by Rusty Wilson to approve the Hazmat curriculum updates.

11. Matters referred to the Commission by the Firefighter Advisory Committee:

A. Discussion and possible action regarding the 2023 Injury Report – Mike Wisko shared a public comment sent by Lynwood Dunseith regarding burn injuries and students who are injured. Rick Wallace addressed Mr. Dunseith's concerns and spoke about staff recommendations. While considering the public comments and staff recommendations, a motion was made by Sue DeVillez and seconded by Paul Hamilton to adopt the report with the following updates to the recommendations: to make all burn injuries mandatory regardless of whether worker's compensation is notified, make it mandatory that training facilities report all injuries that result in a loss of class time for students, recommend mandatory annual cancer screenings for all cancers, recommend that all cancer diagnosis are reported, and that departments are required to report suicides when the department is aware of the suicide. The motion carried.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 469, Technical Rescue – DJ Walker presented the original language to 469.203 and explained the language should be included in the rule. A motion was made by David Coatney and seconded by Kelly Vandygriff to adopt the proposed 37 TAC, Chapter 469, Technical Rescue with changes to §469.23 to include the original language.

12. Discussion and possible action on the proposed 37 TAC, Chapter 449, Head of Department – A motion was made by Christopher Cantu and seconded by Tim Smith to adopt the proposed amendments to 37 TAC, Chapter 449, Head of the Department. The motion carried. A motion was made by Christopher Cantu and seconded by Tim Smith the send 37 TAC, Chapter 449, Head of Department, to amend his original motion to adopt to send the recommended amendments to §449.3 for publication to the Texas Register. The motion carried.

13. Proposed rule review of the following:

A. 37 TAC, Chapter 403, Criminal Convictions and Eligibility for the Certifications;

B. 37 TAC, Chapter 421, Standards for Certification.

A motion was made by Michael Glynn and seconded by Kelly Vandygriff to send the above-mentioned rule reviews to the Firefighter Advisory Committee for review. The motion carried.

14. Discussion and possible action regarding the recommendations from the Committee Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee regarding current vacancies on the Health and Wellness, Curriculum and Testing, and Firefighter Advisory Committees – A report was given by the Committee Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee on the selection process for the Health and Wellness Committee and the recommendations for the nominees for the committee were presented to the Commission. The committee recommended that the four vacant positions be filled with the top candidates based on the unanimous recommendations and that the list be kept as a working list for two years for any upcoming vacant positions to be filled. The committee also recommended opening the application process for the vacant Firefighter Advisory Committee (FFAC) positions and keeping the application process open for a month then moving to the C&T posting for vacant positions. A motion was made by Tim Smith and seconded by Paul Hamilton to accept the recommendations by appointing the top four recommended candidates (Ashley Watson, Brian O’Neil, Adam Story, and Del Albright) to the vacant seats and keeping the top 13 list for two years to fill future vacant seats, and to move to open the FFAC application process for 30 days and then the C&T application process afterward. The motion carried.

15. Matters from the Agency Chief:

A. Update regarding agency duties and responsibilities – Mike Wisko gave a brief report regarding the agency duties and responsibilities.

B. Decision of the Agency Chief in contested cases and consent orders – there was nothing to report.

C. Status regarding division functions: - Mike Wisko gave a brief report on the division functions for each division as listed below.

i. Training Approval & Testing - tests administered, training approvals, record reviews, and online training audits.

ii. Certification & Professional Development – training applications, IFSAC seals issued, certifications issued, training facilities, curriculum development, library resource requests.

iii. Compliance – biennial inspections, compliance officers training, issues involving regulated entities.

iv. Information Technology – public website design, FARM and FIDO improvements, CAPPS (Central Accounting Payroll/Personnel System), IT security policy, and service requests.

16. Personnel matters regarding the appointment, employment, compensation evaluation, reassignment, and duties of the Agency Chief – no executive session was called.

17. Recognition of Commissioner Wilson for his service to the Commission – Presiding Officer J.P. Steelman presented Rusty Wilson with a plaque and recognized his service to the Commission and the Texas Fire Service.

18. Adjourn Meeting – a motion was made by Rusty Wilson and seconded by David Coatney to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

X

J.P. Steelman
Presiding Officer